

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 AID-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 /100 W

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R 210438Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5327

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PT

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN LEFTIST DELEGATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: CANBERRA 1694

1. DAILY AUSTRALINA MAR 21 CARRIES STORY QUOTING STATEMENT MADE BY AUSTRALIAN LEFTIST DELEGATION WHICH RETURNED MAR 21 FROM TIMOR DILI. (COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL). DELEGATION SAID GOA IS ILL-INFORMED ABOUT SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND CALLED FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE IN TIMOR DILI. DELEGATION ALLEGED IT HAD VISITED FOUR PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND 10 VILLAGES IN THE TERRITORY AND CONCLUDED FROM MEETINGS WITH THE PEOPLE THAT QTE THE OVERWHELMING DESIRE OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE IS FOR INDEPENDENCE. END QTE LEADERRR OF DELEGATION, JAMES ROULSTON, VICTORIAN PRESIDENT OF AMALGAMATED METAL WORKERS UNION, SAID HE MADE SPEECH AT EACH STOP WHICH REASSURED PEOPLE OF TIMOR THAT INDEPENDENCE IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.

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2. DELEGATION STATED THAT IT HAD MET WITH INDONESIAN CONSUL IN DILI AND DISCUSSED INTIMIDATING RADIO BROADCASTS BEAMED INTO EAST TIMOR BY RADIO KUPANG. INDONESIAN CONSUL QUOTED AS DENYING THAT INDONESIA HAD ANY INTENTION OF INVADING EAST TIMOR. DELEGATION ALLEGEDLY MET 1000 TRADE UNIONISTS IN DILI MAR 19 TO DISUCSS PROGRAM FOR FURTHER UNIONISTS IN DILI MAR 19 TO DISCUSS PROGRAM FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT EMBASSY INFORMED THAT COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AUSTRALIAN UNION OF STUDENTS, AT MEETING IN MELBOURNE IN EARLY FEBRUARY, ADOPTED PROGRAM OF DEMANDING IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE FOR EAST TIMOR AND OFFERING TO FRETILIN ASSISTANCE FOR EAST IMORESE STUDENTS TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA. AUS (WHICH IS WELL-FINANCED FROM COMPLUSORY ACTIVITIES FEES PAID ANNUALLY BY ALL AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS) ALSO DECIDED TO PROCURE 10,000 FRETILIN BADGES AND SEND THEM TO ORGANIZATION IN DILI.

4. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN LEFT IS NUMERICALLY SMALL AND HAS LIMITED INFLUENCE IN AUSTRALIA. HOWEVER, IT IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MAKING ITS VIEWS KNOWN ON ANY GIVEN ISSUE AND OF FOCUSING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON THEM. THIS PROCESS HAS CLEARLY BEGUN WITH REGARD TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR.
HARROP

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